(b) if so, the details thereof any by when the policy is likely to be announced;

(c) what are the reasons for formulating a new Health Policy which was inaugurated only a few years back which set the target of Health-for-All by 2000;

(d) whether targets set in the last Health Policy have been achieved; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. An exercise is currently underway for revising the National Health Policy 1983 in view of significant epidemiological and demographic changes in the country since the last policy was announced. Upon finalisation of the National Health Policy, the same will be circulated to States/UTs for comments and finally placed before the Cabinet for approval.

(d) and (e) The National Health Policy, 1983 envisaged achievement of basic health and family welfare goals in respect of certain indicators. Varying degree of progress has been achieved in the targets laid down. Details of achievement *vis-a-vis* goals of various indicators are given in the Statement. [Refer to the statement appended to the Answer to Unstarred Question No. 806(c)].

Fish Treatment for Asthma

829. SHRI KARTAR SINGH DUGGAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the scientific truth about the so-called fish treatment of Asthma and bronchitis patients offered by a family in Hyderabad which attracts losts of patients;

(b) the reasons for not patenting this wonder drug if it is acceptable to our physicians; and

(c) whether Government plan to discourage it if it is a mere ritual faith?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) According to ICMR, there is no scientific basis the fish treatment of Asthma and bronchitis. There should be sufficient amount of evidence to prove efficacy of this treatment modality for it to be patented. Since no scientific evidence through properly conducted clinical trials are available to validate the results no steps have been taken to encourage/discourage such practice.

Amount Allocated by IEC Materials to Assam

830. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government allocated Rs. 13 crores for I.E.C. materials for the State of Assam during the year 1999-2000;

(b) whether it is a fact that out of it only Rs.50 lakhs were released for Assam for the above purpose;

(c) if so, the reasons for not releasing the entire fund; and

(d) the steps taken to ensure release of the whole amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) A sum of Rs.368.625 Lakhs was released to the State of Assam during 1999-2000 for IEC activities. This included activities under the Pulse Polio Immunization Programme.

VRS/VSS in PSEs

831. SHRIMATI CHANDRA KALA PANDEY:
SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) The VRS/VSS paid, so far, in PSEs as per available information (Enterprise-wise); and

(b) the closure cost of PSEs closed, so far, (Enterprise-wise)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES